

Attorney's Docket No.:10559-869001/P17317

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lundgren in view of Friedman in further view of Hayden and in further view of Foulke. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite placing the reticle inside a lithography tool and removing the solid carbon dioxide layer from the surface of the reticle inside the lithography tool (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 21). None of the cited references contemplate the removal of a solid carbon dioxide layer within a lithography tool. Lundgren describes an arrangement in which an optical filter is frozen in place before launch of a space-based system. However, such an arrangement does not disclose the placing of a reticle having a protective carbon dioxide layer within a lithography tool.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable. Moreover, new claims 30 and 31, which contain

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similar limitations, should also be allowable based on similar reasoning. In addition, claim 31 should be allowable as the references do not suggest removing a solid carbon dioxide layer while inside a lithography tool and without removing a pellicle on a surface of a reticle.

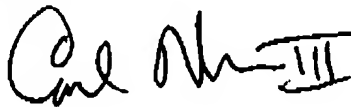
Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply
any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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